

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
June 17, 2015

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Zachary Renstrom, County Commission
Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Vice Chairman Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town Council Member
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Bette Arial, St. George City Council, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart's Office
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Five County AOG
Bryan Thiriot, Five County AOG
Dave Glen, Ivins City
Chuck Gillett, Ivins City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Steve Call, Federal Highway Administration
David Cox, Federal Highway Administration
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Fred Davies, Sun Tran
Jamie Stewart, Citizen
Jim Guard, Citizen
Gary Engelman, Citizen

EXCUSED

Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made. It was established that a quorum exists for voting on action items.

BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2015

MOTION: Motion by Ken Sizemore to Approve the Minutes from the May 20, 2015, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

B. Consider Amendment to 2015-2019 TIP (Exit 11)

Myron Lee explained that the Washington City made a presentation at the last Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) Meeting and requested that the \$1.8 million Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) dollars previously allocated to the Green Springs project on the south side of I-15 at Exit 10 be reprogrammed to the Exit 11 project for a new freeway interchange between Exit 10 and Exit 13. The Exit 11 project is a high priority that would address traffic congestion on the south side of the freeway at Telegraph and Green Springs. DTAC approved the change in allocation and recommended it be approved by the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC).

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve an Amendment to the 2015-2019 TIP to change the scope of PIN 11550 to construct a new Interchange at Exit 11 in Washington City. Motion seconded by Naghi Zeenati and carried by unanimous vote.

C. Set Public Comment Period for 2016-2020 TIP (July 1 to August 1, 2015)

Mr. Lee distributed a copy of the 2016-2020 Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is comprised of a list of TIP projects approved previously by DTEC in January. Mr. Lee recommended the TIP be set for public comment from July 1, 2015 to August 1, 2015. This would be in conjunction with the TIP's from the other three (3) MPO's in the State of Utah and corresponds with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public comment period for Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).

Mr. Lee also mentioned that the changes from last year to the current year are highlighted in yellow and pointed out a calculation error on the Total Funding line item for Exit 11. The correct calculation should read, \$1,179,878.

(See attached for the 2016-2020 TIP)

MOTION: Motion by Naghi Zeenati to Approve the 2016-2020 TIP Public

Comment Period from July 1, 2015 to August 1, 2015. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

D. Adopt 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Lee distributed the final 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan. This document is updated every four (4) years and will be published on the Five County Website next week. The plan was brought before DTEC three (3) months ago and a public comment period was set for May 2015. The public comments have been compiled and responded to. From the public comments, edits have also been made within the air quality section of the plan in Chapter 11, with updated information from the Department of Air Quality. In addition, the public comments from the Transportation Expo have been included in this plan. Mr. Lee now recommends final approval from DTEC.

(See attached for the 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan)

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pike to Adopt the 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Jimmie Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS / DISCUSSIONS

A. Local Option Sales Tax

Mr. Lee stated that on June 16, 2015, there was an article in the Salt Lake Tribune indicating fifty-five (55) Utah cities and towns that have passed or are considering resolutions requesting their respective counties to place this referendum on the ballot this year. Among the list of fifty-five (55) cities are: Hildale, Ivins, Santa Clara, Toquerville, and Washington.

Mayor Pike stated that St. George intends to have a resolution for their City Council Meeting on July 9, 2015 and Kyle Gubler stated that LaVerkin City has it on their agenda for tonight, June 17, 2015.

Commissioner Renstrom stated that Chairman Gardner feels strongly if Salt Lake County decides to place it on the ballot for this year that Washington County should do the same due to the publicity from the newspapers and T.V. Commissioner Renstrom reiterated that education is key and should begin at the city council levels. Another concern is the financial impact it will have on the County since a county-wide election was not budgeted for this year.

A suggestion was made that if the cities want the County to put it on the ballot that the

cost be shared equally amongst the cities and County.

Mayor Hart and Mayor Pike discussed that the majority of the cities are in favor of the Local Option Sales Tax being on the ballot this year. They went on to express that the Legislatures passed House Bill 362 believing that Utah was in need of additional funds to maintain roads and it should now be put before the voters. Mayor Hart also mentioned that the Regional Transportation Plan is dependent upon those funds.

The discussion continued with Mayor Smith from Springdale stating concern that if the sales tax increase passes the room rate tax will become thirteen percent (13%) and questions if economically is it in Springdale's best interest.

Fred Davies mentioned that it will assist in funding the needs of the bus system to eventually reach Springdale but Mayor Pike stated that initially it will only help St. George City since Sun Tran is currently not in Springdale and funds will first go towards expanding the St. George service.

Mr. Lee explained that the potential new tax has an element to provide transit dollars in areas where transit is being provided. St. George City would receive approximately \$1.6 million dollars towards transit. There is an additional \$880,000 dollars that would fund transit, if transit were available and servicing other areas of the County. Since transit isn't available in other areas of the County, that money would go directly to the County for their transportation services. It would be beneficial for the cities without transit to work with the County Commissioners to determine the County's commitment of the \$880,000 dollars.

Commissioner Renstrom mentioned that business leaders are concerned with the potential sales tax increase since *amazon.com* is the biggest competitor due to customers not subjected to local taxes.

The Local Option Tax can be put on the ballot every county-wide election allowed under Utah State law so if it fails it can be put on the ballot at a later time.

B. JPAC Report (June Meeting)

Ken Sizemore stated that the Transportation Coalition will be running the education campaign for the potential tax increase at the State level which will help educate voters on the Local Option Tax proposition and encourages all the municipalities to coordinate with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) who will put them in touch with the Transportation Coalition.

Another item that was discussed at the June JPAC Meeting was Map-21 Federal

Transportation Bill which expired and is currently on a two (2) month extension. The Congress would like to do a six (6) year authorization and get the transportation funding back on that cycle but the political realities with the Senate are currently making that difficult to accomplish.

The last JPAC item mentioned was a GREENbike Tour that recently took place in Salt Lake City. A worry for Salt Lake transit users was finding transportation for the first and last mile of a transit trip; from where an individual might work or live to the transit stop. To bridge that gap Salt Lake City has instituted GREENbike which is a Bike Share program and includes a network of many stations where members can take any bike from any station for a small fee. Currently an annual pass is seventy-five (\$75) dollars and includes a free helmet. This program is sponsored by Salt Lake City and the business community.

UDOT / FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES

A. UDOT Updates

Rick Torgerson mentioned that since Map-21 has been extended the challenge with the STIP year two (2) and three (3) projects is getting them started on time so the design gets completed and ready to be advertised within the November to February time frame for the next construction season. During November to February, construction companies are looking to bid upcoming projects with competitive pricing. When MAP-21 is on two (2) month extension cycles, projects get delayed due to funding held by the Federal Government and projects might miss a construction season, which then effects pricing. Mr. Torgerson continued by saying that UDOT's struggle is now delivering the projects on time and on budget when there is no reliability of getting reimbursed from the Federal Government.

Reflective Recessed Pavement Markers are being installed in areas of the Black Ridge, Scipio, and Kanab. With this new pavement marker, a driver of a vehicle should be able to feel the lane change, yet snow plow operations would not affect the reflective strip during winter months. This technology is currently being used in Arizona and testing is taking place to determine if it will work for Utah.

B. Federal Updates

Steve Call, representing the Federal Highway Administration, stated that two (2) weeks ago the Federal Highway Administration conducted a Federal Safety Audit for bicycle/pedestrian facilities in the Southern Area and was very impressed with the extensive trail systems.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jamie Stewart spoke to DTEC concerning the need for transit to Zion National Park for the community and visitors, including those unable to currently enjoy the Park due to disabilities. Ms. Stewart mentioned that the proposed \$80,000 dollar study is not necessary and stated the Sequoia National Park has a successful transit system which was fully funded by the 2010 increase to the Sequoia National Park entrance fees and would like UDOT to research their success, along with other parks such as Yosemite to see if that solves the Zion National Park transportation challenges.

Gary Engelman read sections of an article from the *Spectrum* relating to the *Hurricane to Zion Canyon Transit Study* that Five County Association of Governments prepared in 2010. He then read a letter that Jamie Stewart wrote that was addressed to Jeff Harris of UDOT.

(See attached for article and letter)

A discussion took place wherein DTEC agreed that although it is difficult to spend \$80,000 dollar on a transit study to look at the corridor between St. George and Zion, it is necessary in order to receive State and Federal funding as well as justifying seeking financial support from the cities along with forming an agreement between all the local entities. Eighty percent (80%) of the cost would be provided through the UDOT Public Transit Team and although it is beneficial to look at previous studies it is important to understand that due to the MAP-21 Federal Highway Bill, some grants used for the Sequoia Transit are no longer available.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: August 19, 2015

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nicholle Felshaw